



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karla Gore or Karla.Gore@noaa.gov
727/824-5305, FAX 727/824-5308
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

June 2, 2015
FB15-036

NOAA Fisheries Announces Changes for Snapper-Grouper Species and Gray Triggerfish Management Measures

The final rule for Amendment 29 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region published on June 1, 2015 (80 FR 30947). Regulations will be effective on July 1, 2015.

The final rule for Amendment 29 will:

- Update the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's acceptable biological catch control rule to incorporate a new methodology for determining the acceptable biological catch of unassessed species.
- Adjust the acceptable biological catch value for 14 unassessed snapper-grouper species.
- Revise the annual catch limits for three species complexes and four snapper-grouper species.
- Establish a 12-inch fork length minimum size limit for gray triggerfish in federal waters off North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia for both the commercial and recreational sectors.
- Increase the commercial and recreational minimum size limit for gray triggerfish off the east coast of Florida from 12-inches to 14-inches fork length.
- Establish a commercial split season for gray triggerfish.
- Establish a 1,000 pound whole weight commercial trip limits for gray triggerfish.

Commercial Annual Catch Limit for Gray Triggerfish

Commercial harvest for gray triggerfish will open on July 1, 2015, and will close when the new quota is projected to be met.

Commercial harvest of gray triggerfish was closed on May 8, 2015, because it was determined that the previous annual catch limit of 272,880 pounds whole weight would be met by that date. Because this final rule is being implemented halfway through the 2015 fishing year and commercial landings of gray triggerfish have accumulated, the quota for the July 1 through December 31, 2015, fishing season will be the difference between the new total commercial annual catch limit of 312,324 pounds whole weight and the amount of commercial landings that have occurred by July 1, 2015.

More Information

For more information on Amendment 29, please click on this link to the Frequently Asked Questions found at: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2014/am29/index.html.

This bulletin serves as a Small Entity Compliance Guide, complying with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.